

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 18, 2013
Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

Board Members Present: Wayne Fortier, Tom Friel, Lynn Wheeler, Roderick Ladd and Robert Roudebush

Town Manager: Glenn English

Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer: Jo Lacaillade

Selectboard Clerk: Karen Hyde

Members of the Public Present: Roger Mitton and Ed Ballam -- JO

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Wayne Fortier called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: Robert Roudebush made a motion to accept the Agenda; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Lynn Wheeler made a motion to accept the consent agenda; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously.

Scheduled Public Appearance(s): There were no scheduled public appearances, but Mr. Roger Mitton wanted to address the Board in regard to his overdue taxes. Mr. Mitton stated that the IRS had just released their lien on his house that afternoon, but he still owed back taxes to the Town of Haverhill. AA Lacaillade clarified to the Board that Mr. Mitton had been in, in the past years to discuss his IRS issues with the Selectboard at tax deeding time. Chairman Fortier asked Mr. Mitton if he had a plan as to how he would address this issue. Lynn Wheeler asked Mr. Mitton if he couldn't take out another mortgage to pay off what he owes and he stated that he was 75 and nobody would lend to him. AA Lacaillade stated that the Board had options: (1) Mr. Mitton could enter into a payment agreement or (2) they could request that Mr. Mitton try to get another mortgage. Chairman Fortier stated he didn't think that the Board could solve Mr. Mitton's problem right then. Chairman Fortier asked Mr. Mitton if the Board were to entertain the idea of a monthly payment schedule to clear up the arrears, would he be willing to participate in that. Mr. Mitton stated that he would. Chairman Fortier stated that the Board needed time to come up with a plan. AA Lacaillade stated that, at the next meeting, she was going to present to the Board all the property, including Mr. Mitton's property, which was eligible for tax deeds. Rick Ladd stated that the next avenue for Mr. Mitton would be to meet with AA Lacaillade in the office to go over his income and assets so that when the Selectboard has to deal with it next, all of that has been done in a place where it is not going to be public. AA Lacaillade took Mr. Mitton's telephone number and stated that she would get some information together and then have Mr. Mitton come into the office to go through more paperwork before the next Selectboard meeting on December 2.

Public Hearing: None

Town Manager's Report: TM English stated that he was preparing the new budget and needed some input on groundwater protection and whether the Board was going to pursue that. If so, that would impact the Health Officer's cost. Rick Ladd stated that some training for the Health Officer on groundwater and how to address issues with contamination sites should be built into the budget. There was some discussion about whether there were or were not water problems in Town. Rick Ladd stated that the Health Officer would know if there were and where they are. He also stated that there were some potential sites in the community and these have been discussed by one of their committees. TM English stated that the Health Officer should get some initial training. He said baseline testing of wells might be done.

TM English also had two legal issues that were not confidential so therefore could be handled in open session. He presented the proposed agreement from Chris Boldt to represent the Town with the PSNH appeal with the Board of Tax and Land Appeal (BTLA). Rick Ladd made the motion that the Chairman of the Board sign the agreement with Chris Boldt to represent the Town in matters dealing with PSNH; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously. TM English also presented information that towns are supposed to be taxing poles and wires of telephone and cable companies. In order for the Town to do this legally, they need to amend all of the pole licenses issued over the years to install infrastructure. There is a method that Chris Boldt has developed for his towns to do this and that is to amend the pole license procedure to require the payment of these taxes. It starts with a petition from a resident, which TM English presented with his signature on it as a resident of the Town of Haverhill. The second thing is to look at the pole licensing procedures. To date, the Town has accepted whatever licensing documents that the utility companies have given the Town to install poles or conduit. Mr. Boldt is suggesting to all the towns that he represents that they come up with their own licensing agreement that addresses the issue with taxation. If the issue of the taxation is not in the pole agreement, towns cannot tax the utilities by law. He was then asked if the Town was currently taxing the utilities and he replied that they currently have no authority because the current licensing procedure does not explicitly say that they will be subject to local property tax. TM English presented a pole license draft agreement that he would get to the members of the Board that addresses all the legal requirements that need to be done. If the Board adopts this new pole licensing agreement, the Board would be providing the form to the utilities when the utilities come to the Board for permission to install infrastructure in Town right-of-way and it would be clear that they are subject to taxation. To adopt this agreement and amendment, the Board would need to hold a Public Hearing to take input. The Town's attorney would give the Board a prepared process for the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing has been tentatively scheduled for the December 16, 2013 Selectboard meeting.

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Capital Improvement Plan-Roads:** Chairman Fortier stated that the Board had received information from AA Lacaillade concerning tax rate impact on \$1 million and \$2 million bonds from the Bond Bank and Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank. She explained that the WGSB payment is a fixed annual amount and the NHBB decreases over the years. The \$1 million bond would increase the tax rate between 34 to 39 cents and the \$2 million bond would increase between 68 to 79 cents. Robert Roudebush asked AA Lacaillade for her opinion as to what was the best deal. She replied that, in her opinion, WGSB was the better deal because there were no extra fees involved. TM English stated that a bond vote was done at Town Meeting. Robert Roudebush asked if, at this meeting, the Board wanted some sense of whether they would ask for \$1 or \$2 million or go ahead at all. Robert, Tom Friel and Lynn Wheeler thought they should move ahead with the \$1 million bond. There was further discussion about which roads should be

priority. Tom Friel and Rick Ladd wanted to see traffic counts for Lily Pond Road. TM English stated that he would have that done.

- **Review of Goals:** Chairman Fortier did a brief review of the Board and Town Manager goals for 2013. Many of the goals, such as the elderly exemption process and the turnover in the police department, have been accomplished by both the Board and the Town Manager. Chairman Fortier stated that he felt that they were on track and would go from there.

New Business:

- **Ag Lease Bids:** Chairman Fortier stated that the Ag Lease Bids were in. There was only one bid and he proceeded to open the bid. He stated that the bid was from Howard Hatch for \$1601.01 per year for 32 acres. There was some brief discussion as to how the money would be apportioned. Rick Ladd and Lynn Wheeler thought that it should be split between the Airport Commission and the Business Park. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to accept the bid; seconded by Rick Ladd and carried unanimously. The Board would decide about the funds at the next meeting on December 2, 2013.
- **Mildred Page Request for Funds-Court Street Arts:** AA Lacaillade stated that Court Street Arts has requested \$4,000 from the Mildred Page Fund as it becomes available to pay down their debt service. TM English asked what the current balance was. AA Lacaillade stated that the balance was approximately \$1800 with another disbursement coming by the end of the year in the amount of approximately \$1700. Rick Ladd made the motion to give Court Street Arts \$3500 from the Mildred Page Fund as it becomes available; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously. The Board decided to give Court Street Arts \$1800 now and \$1700 when the disbursement comes in.
- **CAI Technologies Annual Contract:** AA Lacaillade presented the CAI Technologies Annual Contract to the Board with a slight increase in fees. Tom Friel made the motion to approve the annual contract; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously.
- Chairman Fortier asked that the Charter TV cable franchise agreement be put on the next agenda of December 2, 2013.

Commission/Committee Reports: Chairman Fortier reported on the 250th Committee event that was held at the Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building on Saturday, November 16, 2013. There was a low turnout, but a good time was had by those who attended. Robert Roudebush and Chairman Fortier commented that Gary Scruton did a good job of running the event.

Correspondence: Chairman Fortier stated that the Board had received information from the Bridge House requesting a \$2,000 donation. The Board had also received information about the Cohase Chamber of Commerce dinner, which will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at River Bend.

Comments of the Public: Ed Ballam thought that there was a conflict between the meeting on Monday evening and a Twin State meeting. He rechecked his information and the Twin State meeting was being held on Tuesday night.

Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer: None

Comments of Selectboard Members: None

Adjourn Meeting: Tom Friel made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Robert Roudebush and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde